

NEWTOWN AND LLANIDLOES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

OF THE

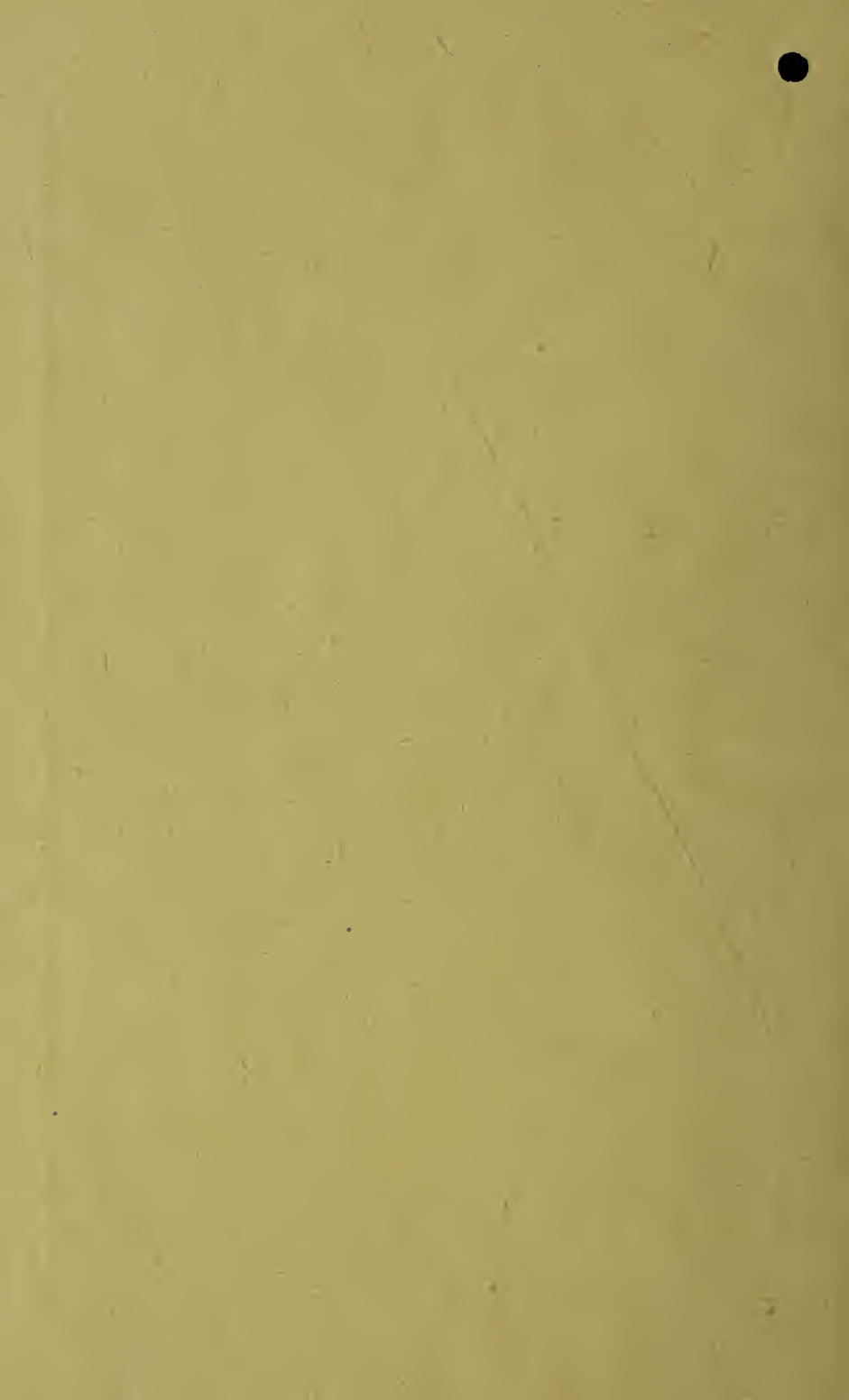
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(R. Davies-Jones, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.S.S.A.)

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1945

COUNTY TIMES, PRINTERS, WELSHPOOL.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NEWTOWN AND LLANIDLOES RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

—O—

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of your District for the year ended December 31st, 1945.

The report is confined to essential matters, and in order to economise time, labour and paper information given in previous reports is omitted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) R. DAVIES-JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.

Maengwyn,

Caersws,

Mont.

October 16th, 1946.

STATISTICAL SURVEY FOR 1945.

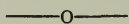
Area, 151,231 acres—that is 236.3 sq. miles.

Population—9,678.

Number of Inhabited Houses—2,586.

Rateable Value—£19,925.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£83 18s. 5d.



VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

| | | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66 | 76 | 142 |
| Illegitimate | | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| | | | | | — | — | — |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | 76 | 84 | 160 |

This gives a Live Birth Rate of 16.5 per 1,000 of population, that of England and Wales being 16.1.

Legitimate Birth Rate for the District—14.67 per 1,000 population.

Illegitimate Birth Rate for the District— 1.8 per 1,000 population.

STILL BIRTHS.

| | | | | | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|--|------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | | 5 | 6 | 11 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | | nil | nil | nil |

This gives a Still Birth-Rate of 1.13 per 1,000 of population, compared with 0.46 for England and Wales.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of Infants under 1 year was 6 (3 males and 3 females), 1 female being an illegitimate child.

This gives an Infantile Mortality Rate of 37.5 per 1,000 live births for this area, compared with 46 for England and Wales.

Of these 6 deaths of infants, 3 (2 males and 1 female) were due to prematurity—(in addition 2 of these 3 were twins born prematurely) and 1 (female)—to congenital defect. These 4 died within 2 days of birth. One (female) died aged 1 month of Bronchial Catarrh and Marasmus, and 1 (male) died aged 3 months of Tuberculous Meningitis.

The Infantile Mortality Rate compares favourably with figures for previous years, details of which were given in my last annual report (page 4).

DEATHS.

During the year there were 120 deaths in the area, 66 males and 54 females. This gives a Crude Death Rate of 12.39 per 1,000 population compared with 11.4 for England and Wales. (The Area Comparability Factor is still not available).

It will be seen from the following tables that again this year well over a third of the total number of deaths were those of persons over 75 years of age (46 out of 120, that is 38.3 per cent), and well over a half were those of persons over 65 (70 out of a total of 120), actually 58.3 per cent.

The two deaths following upon child-bearing or child-birth, give a maternal mortality rate of 11.6 per 1,000 births (live plus still births) compared with a rate of 11.2 for the previous year.

There were 17 deaths (11 males and 6 females) from Cancer compared with 11 for the previous year, 19 for 1943, 27 for 1942 and 13 for each of the years 1941, 1940 and 1939. These 17 deaths give a death rate from Cancer of 1.75 per 1,000 of population.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Measles | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Cancer of Breast | — | 1 | 1 |
| Cancer of all other sites | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| Diabetes | 1 | — | 1 |
| Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ... | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| Heart Disease | 17 | 18 | 35 |
| Other Diseases of Circulatory System | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Pneumonia | 1 | — | 1 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Digestive Diseases | 2 | — | 2 |
| Nephritis | 2 | — | 2 |
| Puerperal Disease | — | 2 | 2 |
| Premature Births | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Congenital Malformations, etc. ... | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Suicide | — | 2 | 2 |
| Road Traffic Accident | 1 | — | 1 |
| Other Violent Causes | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| All Other Causes | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| | — | — | — |
| Totals | 66 | 54 | 120 |

AGES AT DEATH.

| Age Period | | Males | Females | Total |
|------------|-----|-------|---------|-------|
| 0— 1 year | ... | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 1— 5 years | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 5—15 „ | ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 15—25 „ | ... | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 25—35 „ | ... | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| 35—45 „ | ... | 2 | — | 2 |
| 45—55 „ | ... | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 55—65 „ | ... | 6 | 13 | 19 |
| 65—75 „ | ... | 14 | 10 | 24 |
| 75—85 „ | ... | 20 | 15 | 35 |
| 85—95 „ | ... | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| Over 95 | ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| | | — | — | — |
| Totals | ... | 66 | 54 | 120 |

The foregoing table shows that diseases of the Heart and Circulatory System accounted for 47 deaths compared with 56 for the previous year and 43 in 1943.

The only significant feature of these figures of Births and Deaths is that the number of Illegitimate births (18), is highest for many years, the average for the previous 6 years being 10.3.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 19 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 14 pulmonary (9 males + 5 females) and 5 non-pulmonary (1 male + 4 females).

Of the pulmonary cases 2 (1 male + 1 female), were transfers into the district from other areas, and 3 were men discharged from the Forces with this diagnoses, and another man was a vagrant of no fixed abode who arrived in this area a few days before his death. These 6 cases have inflated to some degree the number of pulmonary cases attributed to this area this year.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the 19 new cases:—

| Age Group | Pulmonary. | | Non-Pulmonary. | |
|-------------|------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 0—1 year | ... | — | 1 | — |
| 15—25 years | ... 1* | 1** | — | 1 |
| 25—45 „ | ... 5*** | 2 | — | 3 |
| 45—65 „ | ... 3**** | 2 | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | ... 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 |

* Service discharge.

** Inward transfer.

*** 2 Service discharge + 1 inward transfer.

**** 1 vagrant.

The 19 new cases were distributed among the Parishes in the Council's area as follows:—

Aberhafesp—1 male Pulmonary.

Bettws—1 female non-Pulmonary.

Kerry—1 female Pulmonary + 1 female non-Pulmonary.

Llandinam—2 male Pulmonary (1 Service discharge + 1 inward transfer.

+ 1 female Pulmonary (inward transfer).

+ 2 female non-Pulmonary.

Llangurig—1 male Pulmonary.

Llanidloes—1 female Pulmonary.

Llanllugan—1 female Pulmonary.

Llanwnnog—2 male Pulmonary (1 Service discharge + 1 vagrant).

Llanwyddelan—1 male Pulmonary (Service discharge).

Manafon—1 male Pulmonary + 1 female Pulmonary.

Trefeglwys—1 male Pulmonary.

Tregynon—1 male non-Pulmonary.

These figures do not follow the trend of the relative incidence of Tuberculosis as between the different parishes for the 16 years (1928—1942) detailed in my annual report for 1942.

There were 8 deaths from tuberculosis during the year—7 pulmonary (4 males + 3 females) and 1 non-Pulmonary (male). One of the Pulmonary Deaths was that of a man of no fixed abode.

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of these 8 deaths:—

| Age Group. | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
|-------------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 0—1 year | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| 15—25 years | ... | ... | — | — |
| 25—45 „ | ... | ... | — | — |
| 45—65 „ | ... | ... | — | — |
| | — | — | — | — |
| Totals ... | 4 | 3 | 1 | — |

The following summarises

THE STATE OF THE REGISTER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS.

| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Total | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|---------------|--------|-------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female |
| On Register Dec. 31st, 1944 | 32 | 27 | 9 | 5 | 41 | 32 |
| Add New Cases Notified | 9 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 10 | 9 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| | 41 | 32 | 10 | 9 | 51 | 41 |
| Deduct Recovered 1945 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 2 | 2 |
| Deduct died from Tuberculosis | 4 | 3 | 1 | — | 5 | 3 |
| Deduct died from other causes | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Deduct left district | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| On Register, Dec. 31, 1945 | 34 | 25 | 8 | 8 | 42 | 33 |

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following notifications were received during the year:—

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 141 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1.—The Public Health Staff of your Council consists of the Medical Officer of Health (part-time only), and a qualified Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. H. Thomas, who is a whole-time officer, and whose report is attached hereto. Despite the efforts of the Council, no technical officers have yet been secured to carry out the comprehensive survey of housing conditions in the area—which survey was urged upon all rural councils in the Hobhouse Report of 1944 and to which I drew attention in my last Annual Report. However, thanks to the Council's further and stronger measures, I believe these officers are about to be appointed, and so the survey commenced, without waiting for the suggestions of the County Rural Housing Joint Committee, which has apparently become dormant.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

2.—These remain unchanged throughout the area, but the Council has under consideration a sewerage scheme for Caersws, which now awaits the approval of the County Council and Welsh Board of Health, a sewerage scheme for Llandinam, and water supplies for Llangurig and Tregynon.

3.—I very much regret that very little if any progress has been made in the County to implement the report on Water Supply presented by Major Waters to the County Council in August, 1945, and to which detailed reference was made in my last annual report. There appears to be a complete failure on behalf of the County authorities to appreciate the URGENCY of the problem as it affects this Council—if this Council is to derive full benefit from some such comprehensive scheme it should know NOW whether such a scheme is likely to materialise within the next 5 years. The very siting of the Council's proposed houses in many parishes depends upon whether or not Major Water's excel-

lent scheme is going to be adopted—but the Council cannot defer its Housing programme indefinitely. If in the meantime the Council has provided water supplies of its own then it cannot derive much benefit from participating in a large-scale comprehensive scheme.

Having attended the few meetings that have been convened of the Joint Water Committee, and of the previous Conferences, I personally have been forced reluctantly to the opinion that the Committee cannot function sufficiently quickly to be of ANY assistance to the Council in solving its urgent problems of water supply, and that it will take at least 10 years at the present rate of progress before this Committee can offer any practical help.

As the Council's housing schemes cannot be delayed for such a period, and owing to the uncertainty even after this long interval since its presentation that the comprehensive scheme will be adopted by the Joint County Committee, and despite my own high opinion of Major Water's admirable scheme, I am forced to advise the Council to secure and provide Water Supplies for its 10 villages without waiting further for action by the Joint County Water Committee.

SEWERAGE.

4.—Owing to the departure abroad of Mr. Johnson, the Civil Engineer previously consulted, the Council secured the services of Colonel W. Herbert Bateman of Bath, and following upon his detailed investigations the Council abandoned the scheme for the combined sewage disposal works for Caersws and Llandinam, and adopted 2 separate schemes for the two villages. The detailed plans are now in an advanced stage of preparation, in fact those for Caersws have been approved of by the Council and now await the approval of the County Council and Welsh Board of Health. It is hoped that work on the Caersws scheme will commence next spring and that Llandinam will follow within a few months.

5.—The Council have instructed Colonel Bateman to prepare plans for the sewerage of Llangurig, so that the laying of sewers could be carried out at the same time as the eventual water supply.

6.—The sewerage of the remaining 7 villages in the Council's area presents difficulties which will remain insurmountable until they have been provided with piped water.

HOUSING SCHEMES.

7.—Eight Swedish Timber Houses are nearing completion at Caersws, and I am sure they will prove very pleasing and satisfactory.

8.—The construction of 6 Airey Houses has been approved by the Council—4 at Bettws, 2 at Caersws. The Airey Houses are an innovation and revolution in methods of construction; they take much less time to erect than the traditional type and circumvent the shortage of bricks and bricklayers. It is hoped that these 6 Airey Houses will be ready for occupation next spring, and that 4 each at Kerry, Llangurig, Tregynon and Carno be erected as soon as water supply and sewage permit.

9.—The erection of 12 houses at Llandinam has been delayed by difficulties as to sewage, etc.; these have been temporarily overcome; detailed plans have been approved of by the Council and it is hoped that building operations will commence in the spring.

10.—The erection of 16 houses at Kerry has been held up by difficulties as to water supply and sewerage; these problems remain unsolved and plans cannot be considered until these difficulties are overcome. Colonel Bateman is now investigating the matter.

11.—There has been much difficulty about the sites at Carno, Llangurig, Tregynon and Llawryglyn. Even when this has been overcome, the Council will still have to solve the problem of water-supply in each case. Llangurig and Tregynon water supplies have been the subject of detailed investigation by Colonel Bateman.

WATER SUPPLY.

12.—All progress is held up throughout the whole of the Council's area by the absence of proper water supplies. This problem presents itself in every parish and hamlet in the district. No decent living conditions, no sewage disposal works, no real or worth-while housing schemes, no betterment in agriculture can be obtained until this problem of water-supply is properly solved. This point cannot be over-emphasised.

13.—THE FLOODING IN AND AROUND CAERSWS has been more than usually troublesome and continues to cause injury to the health of the people. I am aware that the County Council has been asked and has agreed to call a conference of all interested and responsible authorities and aggrieved parties, and trust that some satisfactory action will eventually result from that conference. But some smaller and speedier measures would probably do much to mitigate the hardship caused to householders in Caersws—for example the clearing of the obstructions in the River Severn between Caersws and Newtown. It should be realised that over 70 houses in Caersws are periodically affected by flood-water, that there is now sewerage system at Caersws or removal of night-soil, and that very objectionable sludge is left by the flood-water in and around the houses, and that it takes several weeks after each flood to dry up and clean the houses and restore the surroundings to anything approaching decency and sanitary cleanliness. The village has 4 or 5 severe floods each year, when the water reaches a height of 41 inches in houses on the Green, 24 inches in houses in Severn Street, and 18 inches in houses in Manthrig.

14.—In addition to the SEVERE floods, there are more frequent minor floods, when water from the drains is held up by the height of the river and wells up through the man-holes and covers portions of the streets and enters lower-lying houses.

15.—The Manthrig Brook has been unduly troublesome latterly, and has inundated houses along its banks even when the Severn has not overflowed its banks. I believe that this admits of a remedy — the systematic clearing of the WHOLE of its lower reaches—the clearing of portions only has proved to be of no value. The Council is at the moment very active in its efforts to secure the concerted clearing of the whole of this portion of the Manthrig Brook by all the riparian owners, and the War Agricultural Executive Committee appears to be anxious to co-operate.

16.—Since my last Annual Report the Caersws and District Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has secured a Motor Ambulance which is stationed at Caersws, and provides an ambulance service for a large part of the Council's area. This provides a long-felt need which has been commented upon in my previous annual reports, and I am sure that the Council will encourage the Division and Brigade in this voluntary provision of a necessary public service.

In concluding, I take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the intense interest and hearty co-operation of the members of the Council in safeguarding and advancing the health of their district and for adopting and (as far as has been possible) for carrying out and following up all the recommendations contained in my last Annual Report. I also wish to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his valuable services and advice and help at all times.

Tregynon,

October 16th. 1946

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.
Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a summary of the work carried out by the Department during the year ending December 31st. 1945.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of Inspections and Visits | ... | ... | ... | 596 |
| Infectious Diseases: No. of visits made | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Number of Premises Disinfected | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Number of Visits and Inspections under the Milk and Dairies Orders | ... | ... | ... | 500 |
| Number of Milk Samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination | ... | ... | ... | 312 |
| Number of Water Samples submitted for Chemical Examination | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Number of Water Samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination | ... | ... | ... | 12 |

During the year 33 Informal Notices were served and 2 Statutory Notices.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION.—During the year the following were found to be unfit for food and destroyed:—

10 tins of meat, beans, etc., 45½lbs. of Cheese, Chest of Tea—52lbs., contaminated during transit, 3 dozen jars of fish paste, 7lbs. of butter, hind quarter of pork.

The supply of Meat throughout the district continues to be carried out from the Abattoirs at Newtown and Llanidloes. The sampling of Foods under the Food and Drugs Act is carried out by the County Authority.

Generally speaking a satisfactory condition regarding cleanliness was maintained in premises during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES. — The number of registered premises at the end of the year was 334, during the year 12 premises were granted registration for the production of milk for sale. During the year 312 samples of milk were submitted for Examination, of this number the results indicate that 178 samples were satisfactory, 65 samples were of a moderate standard of purity and 69 samples were found to be unsatisfactory. The sampling of milk for wholesale is undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

WATER SUPPLIES.— The total number of samples submitted for examination during the year was 12 for Bacteriological and 1 for Chemical Analysis. The results received show that 6 of the samples were satisfactory and 7 unsatisfactory bacteriologically.

I regret that I am unable to report any improvement in the characteristics of the Caersws Water Supply which remain similar to that of the previous years.

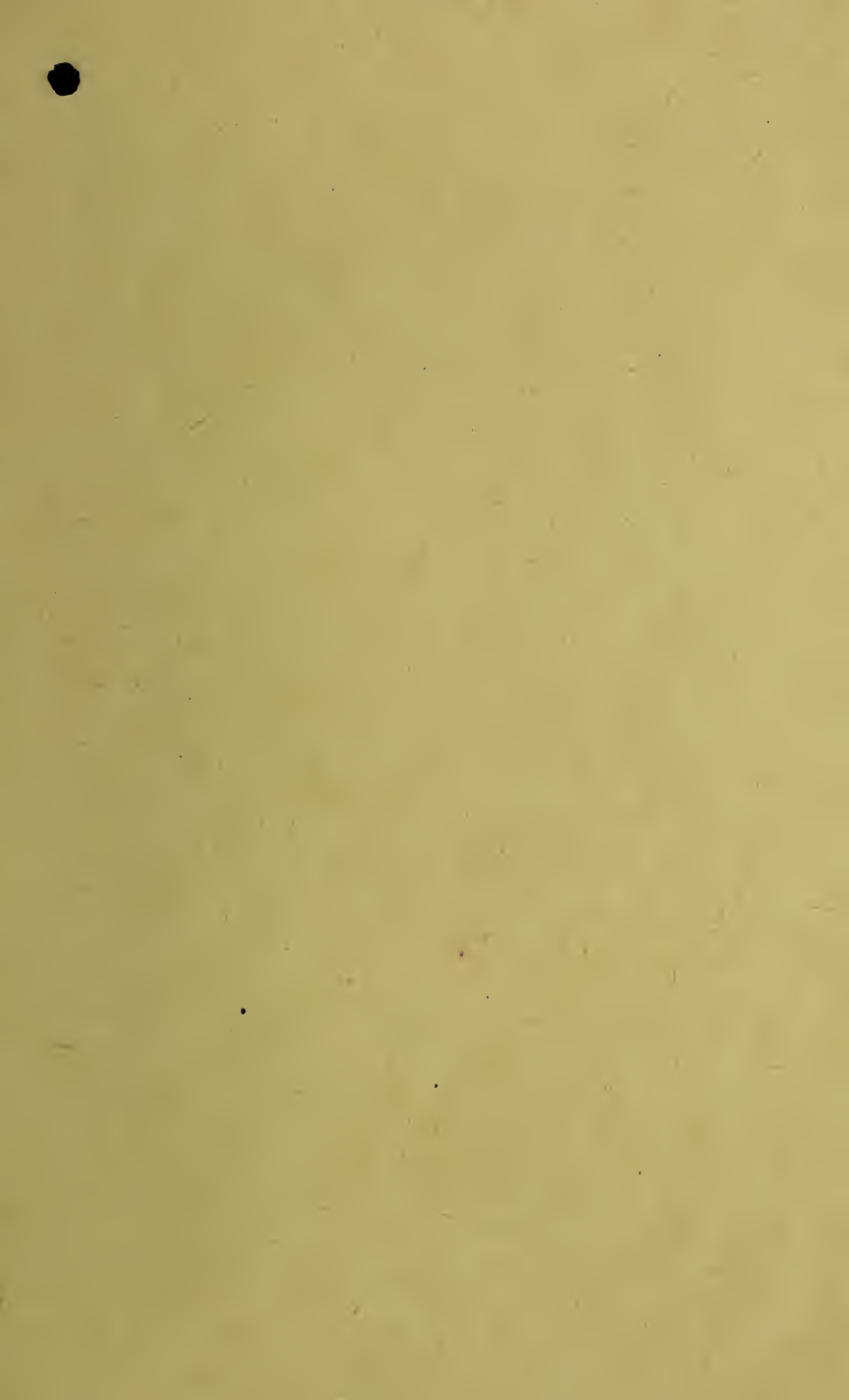
HOUSING.—No Housing Survey was made during the year and no action taken in the case of unfit houses. During the year 8 houses were completed under the Government Scheme for the provision of Houses for Agricultural Workers, the sites being at Sarn and Trefeglwys, 4 houses erected on each site.

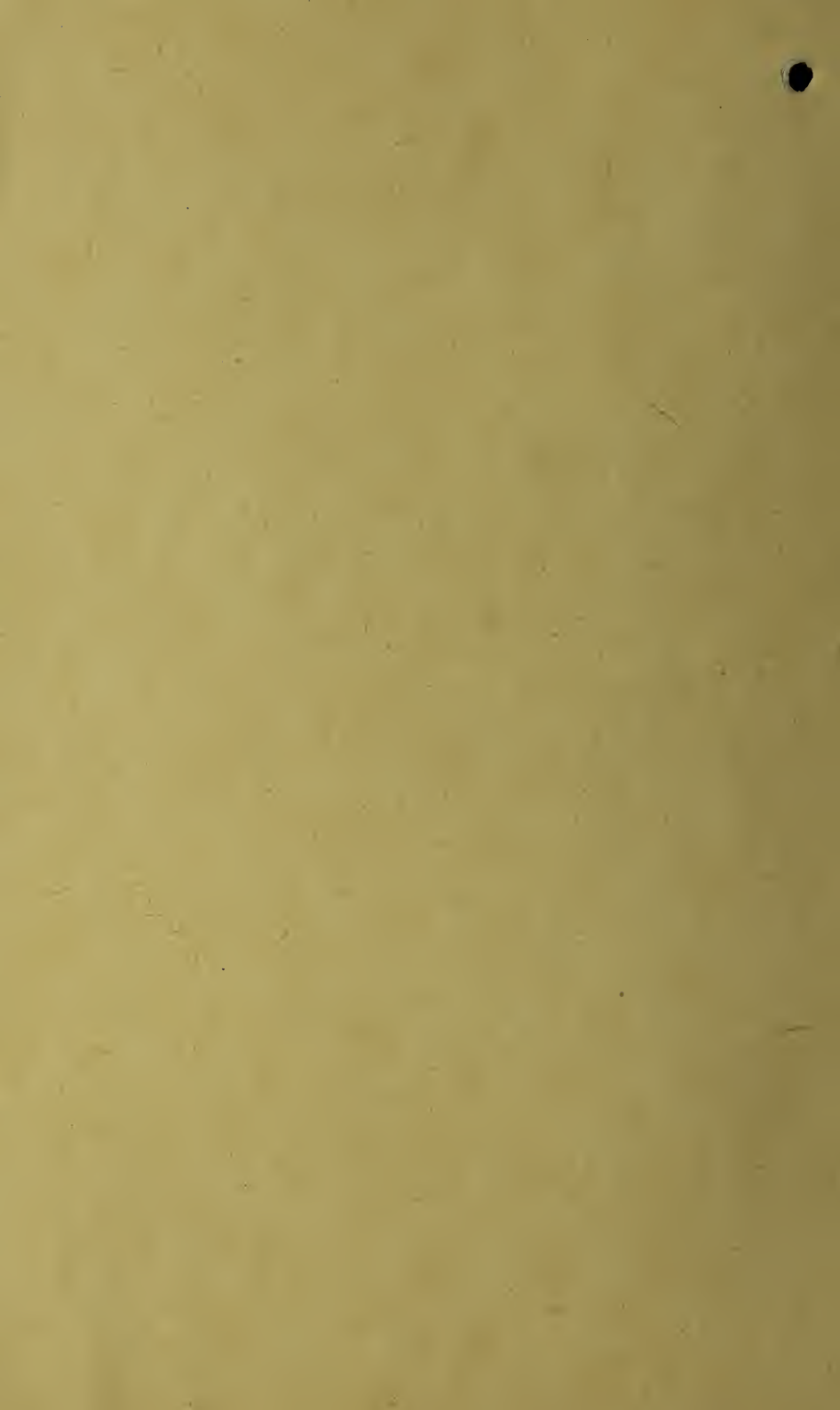
REFUSE COLLECTION.—As reported in my last report the problem facing householders with regard to the means of disposing of household refuse still remains acute in the greater part of the area, and no extension of the district for the collection by the Council was undertaken, the only area where the Council undertake the collection and disposal of refuse is the township of Caersws.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. H. THOMAS.





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职务: _____

Post

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